

Podcasts: Supporting Information Literacy Standards for Students

- *Standard 3: The student who is information literate uses information accurately and creatively.* Have students develop video podcasts that show how the social, political, and cultural events of a generation were reflected in its literature and arts.
- *Standard 4: The student who is an independent learner is information literate and pursues information related to personal interests.* As students learn about podcasting, both as producers and consumers, they will be able to access and retrieve podcasts that relate to their personal interests independently.
- *Standard 5: The student who is an independent learner is information literate and appreciates literature and other creative expressions of information.* As students develop podcasts of booktalks and book reviews, they will be sharing their appreciation for literature, and, as they access similar podcasts created by others, they will independently expand the scope of their literary interests.

- *Standard 7: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and recognizes the importance of information to a democratic society.* Students who create and develop news podcasts about the school and/or community become aware of the importance of information and access to that information.
- *Standard 8: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and practices ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology.* Students who develop podcasts must practice ethical behavior in the production of the podcasts and must adhere to copyright regulations.
- *Standard 9: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and participates effectively in groups to pursue and generate information.* The development of podcasts, particularly video podcasts, lends itself to group work, so students learn to collaborate as they plan and produce the podcast.

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Podcasting:

What is it GOOD for?



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What are Podcasts?

Podcasts ...

- are digital audio and video presentations that are available online, either through a webpage, blog, podcasting server, or other provider such as iTunes.
- can be used to support instruction in a variety of ways including information presentation, providing practice, or reviewing and remediating concepts.
- can support student learning as they plan, research, and produce their own podcasts.
- can promote media center programs, provide professional development, and support public relations.

Designing Podcasts

The ADDIE instructional design model, with minor modification, can easily be used to guide the production of podcasts.

Analyze

Design

Develop

Implement

Evaluate

Analyze

- **Conduct a Needs Assessment.** What do your students and teachers need? What problems/ programs could a Podcast help you address? These questions will help you identify and prioritize topics for potential podcasts.
- **Do a Learner Analysis.** Who are your students and teachers? What are their learning styles and reading levels? What special needs do they have? Knowing your students will enable you to develop appropriate podcasts.
- **Identify Distribution Options.** How will your students access and view the podcasts? Home or school computers? iPods at home or school? How will you distribute the Podcasts? Do you have a blog? Webpage? access to a Podcasting server?

Design

- **Identify Objectives.** What information or skill do you want to target? Will this be a tutorial or review of a component skill? Clear identification of objectives will keep your podcasts on track.
- **Select Technology Format for Delivery.** Do the objectives require visuals? Audio? Live action? Do you have special needs students who will require additional support? Choose the format (audio or video podcast) that best addresses the content and needs of your students in a manner that will be accessible to them.

Develop

- **Create Prototype Podcasts.** Remember students will be using the podcasts on their own, so content and communication must be clear. Use a rubric to evaluate your podcasts.
- **Pilot Test.** Have a variety of students and teachers view the podcasts before you publish them. Have them identify problem areas and revise your podcasts based on pilot feedback.

Implement

- **Publish the podcasts.** Post the podcasts on your web page, blog, podcasting server or other provider. For podcast series, enable automatic subscriptions through RSS feeds or iTunes subscriptions.
- **Solicit feedback.** Provide users with an email address to give you feedback, or encourage comment postings to your blog. Review use statistics if your podcast is posted on a server that collects user data.

Evaluate

- **Reflect on feedback.** Use formal and informal feedback to identify content and delivery problems.
- **Revise.** Update the podcasts based on problems or changes/updates that impact content.